(a) whether the Indian National Rural Labour Federation has appealed to Government for setting up of a housing board exclusively for agricultural workers; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Govrnment thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Shri Chandradeo Prasad Varma): (a) According to information available, no such request has been received.

(b) Question does not arise.

Budget Allocation for Tube-Wells in Punjab

1234. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Budget allocation made in 1995-96 for installing tubewells in the rural areas of Punjab;

(b) the district-wise details of tubewells installed upto the end of June, 1996;

(c) the targets fixed for the puprose in the state for the next two years; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) During 1995-96, an allocation of Rs. 10.06 crores was made for making provision of safe drinking water sources, viz. pipe water supply, hand pump tubewells etc. in the rural areas of Punjab under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

(b) District-wise details with reference to provision of safe drinking water sources made by State Government is not maintained at the Central level. The State Government has however, reported to have covered 305 village with at least one source of safe drinking water as on 31.05.1996.

(c) and (d) 684 habitations have been targetted to be covered during 1996-97. Target for 1997-98 and 1998-99 will depend upon the funds made available under the ARWSP during the respective period. With a view to complete the target fixed for 1996-97, an allocation of Rs. 11.05 crores has been made in respect of Punjab.

Conversion of CBI into an Autonomous Body

1235. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government have any plans to make the C.B.I. an autonomousbody, free from all sorts of political and administrative hindrances, in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): CBI derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and enjoys functional autonomy in the conduct of investigation. There is no interference with the CBI, either political or administrative, in the matter of investigation of cases by them. There are no plans under consideration of Government to make the CBI an autonomous body.

Reservation for Women in Government jobs

1236. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether Government have since accepted the proposal submitted by the National Commission for Women for 30 percent reservation for women in all Government jobs;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the reservation will apply in cases where husbands/sons are employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) The Government are considering a proposal to provide reservation for women in Government jobs.

Declaring Ahmedabad as a Mega City

1237. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTR be pleased to state:

(a) whethe it is a fact that Government have declared Madras, Mumbai, Bangalore,